

Advisory Board Minutes 8-2-2018

Name	Office	Present	Absent	Absent with notice
David Clinton	Chair	x		
Jay Polito	Vice Chair	x		
Jason Frady	Clerk	x		
Bob Carney				x
Dan Sullivan				x
George Boylen		x		
Jill Dennard			x	
Pat Cormier		x		
Peter Larsen		x		
Robyn Healey		x		

Dave Clinton Called the meeting to order at: 7:01 p.m. Thursday August 2, 2018

Invited Guests

Petitioner: Chesley Oriel 64 H St.

Brian Willard, Animal Control Officer

Rhoda Kanet Chair Beach Management Committee

Chris Kraforst Conservation Administrator

Agenda

Special Town Meeting Article

Dogs on the Beach

The petitioner, Chesley Oriel, provided a document entitled Advisory Board Presentation which includes the language of the article and background information regarding other towns' policies concerning dogs on the beach or in dog parks.

The article as presented would

Limit dogs on the beach to dogs licensed in the Town of Hull

Require a beach pass for dogs at a cost of \$14.00

Allow the Town Clerk and Animal Control Officer to determine the format of a pass

Over 440 dog licenses in Hull

Out of 187 calls to the ACO, 20 were for dogs on the beach

Rhoda Kanet came representing the Beach Management Committee

They have not met to discuss the article.

The committee has opposed previous Town Meeting Articles to allow dogs on the beach in the summer. Working people walk the beach at the same hours the petition is asking for, some of who may be afraid of dogs.

Before June 1 she has seen unleashed dogs on the beach.

This year Plovers have been killed by animals

Rhoda shared suggestions that may make it more palatable for the BMC

A large tag or leash that shows the dog is allowed on the beach

zero tolerance for off leash dogs - noncompliance would result in forfeiture of pass.

must carry bags  
 must stay 100 feet from plovers  
 adding in a sunset provision to allow the provisions of the by law to expire.

AB members asked the ACO how he enforces current laws  
 ACO travels Beach Ave and stops at street ends to scan the beach with binoculars  
 Usually gives warnings for first offense, citation for second offense.

Dogs on the beach during proposed hours may reduce the number of dogs on the beach illegally during peak hours.

Chris Krahforst read a letter he received from Mass Audubon in opposition to the article.  
 The letter is attached

Any activity around the plovers causes adult plovers to hunker down in their nests, juvenile plovers will just freeze  
 leaving them vulnerable to other animals  
 Plovers come out to forage when the beach is quiet in the evening and morning hours.  
 By allowing dogs on the beach in the evening and early morning hours the town would be putting the plovers at risk.  
 Several plovers were killed on the beach. Mass Audubon determined that 1 plover was killed by a dog.  
 Dogs are restricted from the beach under the current Beach Management Plan  
 Petitioner believes people will avoid the plovers  
 Rhoda mentioned that High Tide is of particular concern  
 Current dog By-Law required dogs to be leashed and the leash must be 7 feet or less.  
 Dogs licensed in any town are recognized as licensed statewide  
 concern that guests of Hull residents would not be able to bring their dogs to the beach during the proposed hours.

AB members asked the petitioner about alternatives to the requirement that the dogs be licensed in Hull.

Motion                      George Boylen                      To recommend Favorable Action  
 Second                      Robyn Healey

Vote		Yea	Nay	Abstain
Name	Office			
David Clinton	Chair	x		
Jay Polito	Vice Chair		x	
Jason Frady	Clerk		x	
Bob Carney				
Dan Sullivan				
George Boylen		x		
Jill Dennard				
Pat Cormier			x	
Peter Larsen			x	
Robyn Healey		x		

Motion to adjourn Jason Frady  
Second Robyn Healey  
Vote is unanimous  
Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

## ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTATION

### Regarding:

ARTICLE. To see if the Town of Hull will amend the code/bylaw of the Town of Hull Chapter 90 as follows: 90-3 paragraph 1 sub paragraph H by adding at the end of that sub-paragraph:

“Provided however, that residents of the Town of Hull who have licensed their dog with the Town of Hull as otherwise set forth in Chapter 90, and who have paid an annual fee of Fourteen (\$14.00) Dollars to the Town of Hull shall be issued a dog beach pass in a format that is determined by the Town Clerk of the Town of Hull and those residents shall be permitted to have their leashed dog on any such beach during the hours of 7:00pm to 8:00am during the months of June 1 to September 15. (Inserted on Petition of Chesley Oriel and others).

### Background:

Presently the Town of Hull does not allow dogs on the beach during the period of June 1 to September 15.

At the annual Town Meeting in May, 2015, an Article somewhat similar but not the same was before Town Meeting and did not pass (lost by less than 30 votes).

The Article that will go before the Special Town Meeting includes specific hours that dogs would be allowed on the beach and there would be an annual \$14.00 dog beach pass that only residents who have licensed dogs would be able to purchase. Anyone who violates the Article would be subject to a \$50.00 fine for each occurrence.

There are three communities that are in close proximity to Hull: Cohasset, Scituate, and Hingham.

Cohasset allows dogs on Sandy Beach during May 1st to Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00pm to 8:00am.

Scituate allows dogs on their beaches during June 15<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 10:00am.

Hingham has two areas that are available to the public to enjoy the outdoors with their dogs: Stoddard Neck Park and Bare Cove.

In Hull, the only available place for its residents to enjoy the outdoors with their dogs is on the beach; which they currently are prevented from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

When the Petition(s) to request the scheduling of the Special Town Meeting were presented to the Town Clerk, over 300 signatures were filed (200 certified signatures

being required for the Special Town Meeting), and there were about 200 more that could have been filed. There is a tremendous amount of community support for this Article.

**Request:**

We respectfully request that the Advisory Board issue a favorable opinion and that it support the passage of this Article.

Respectfully submitted:

CHESLEY ORIEL  
64 H St.  
Hull, MA 02045



August 2, 2018

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Hull  
Hull, MA

I am writing to provide comments on the proposed rule change regarding dogs on town beaches. It is my understanding that the Town is considering changing the current rule, which prohibits dogs from town beaches during the period of June 1 through Sept. 15, to allowing leashed dogs on public beaches between the hours of 7pm - 8am during this time period.

Mass Audubon does **not** support this proposed change as critical nesting activities take place on Hull beaches starting in early April and continuing throughout the summer. These include territory establishment, pair-bonding, egg-laying, and chick rearing. Preventing disturbance in the early morning and evening hours is particularly important to plover families on busy recreational beaches as the daytime use of the beach by recreationists often precludes developing chicks from foraging and can extend their time on the beach.

We have worked to protect these special status shorebirds in partnership with the Town of Hull, with support from many residents, since 2014 when piping plovers were first discovered nesting at this site. We applaud the town's commitment and the efforts of all departments to ensure shorebird protection while striking a balance between wildlife management and encouraging responsible use of the beach.

The beaches of Hull were designated as Priority Habitat of rare species on August 1, 2017 by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. In the town's 2018 North Nantasket Beach Management Plan, section 9.12 states that "No dogs or other domestic animals shall be allowed on the beach from June 1 through September 15. At all other times, animals on the beach must be on leash under control of the owner or caretaker..." Properly enforced, this regulation lessens potential disturbance from dogs and ensures that birds have the best chance to be successful.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments. I would be happy to provide additional information and look forward to working with the town to continue your success in natural resource management and providing memorable beach experiences for residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue MacCallum".

Sue MacCallum  
Director, South Shore Sanctuaries  
[smacallum@massaudubon.org](mailto:smacallum@massaudubon.org)

Cc: K Parsons  
J. Regosin  
S. von Oettingen



# Town of Hull

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

TEL: (781) 925-2224

FAX: (781) 925-2228

**253 ATLANTIC AVE**

HULL, MA 02045

August 1, 2018

Dear Advisory Board,

The Board of Health does beach water quality samples on Tuesday mornings weekly from June through August. The testing done is for Enterococci, which is a bacteria and used as an indicator of coastal water quality. Enterococci are a form of fecal streptococci and, if present, indicate fecal material from warm blooded animals is present in water.

There are many potential causes of elevated bacteria levels in the ocean. Runoff from precipitation events can carry a variety of contaminants into the water, including animal waste, pollutants and excess nutrients from lawns. In addition to runoff, the other common causes of high bacteria levels are failing septic systems, animal waste on a beach or in the water (typically from birds), leaking baby diapers, and individuals swimming during an illness.

My concerns for allowing dogs on the beach are: compliance with the leash law, dog feces being left on the beach, dog poop bags being left, dogs getting onto the dunes and dogs going after the plovers, enforcement and lack of continuity of the regulation about dogs with the DCR beach and article is only for Town residents which would exclude visitors.

Yesterday, while doing water samples at A St beach and Kenberma, two dogs were on the beach with no leash at approximately 9:30 am.

Joyce Sullivan, BSN, RN  
Health Director